

# THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 119, No. 12

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Job fair helps career choice

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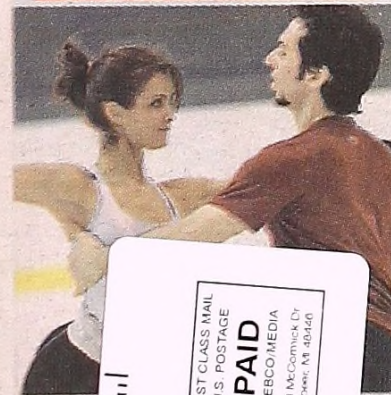
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Local shelter operator's book to be published

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## Schools may cut \$2 million

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

A recent dialogue about school finances indicates some very tough times are ahead for the Romulus Community School District.

School board members and residents were given a document at the regular board meeting last week that recommended the district cut \$2.3 million from the budget to stay on track fiscally.

A part of the plan could include layoffs of instructional and support staff. School Board President Celeste Roscoe said the board has the final decision about the plan and is looking at ways to balance the books that don't include teacher layoffs.

"We're wracking our brains right now," she said. "We're not leaving any stone unturned when it comes to this very difficult statewide environment."

It's not clear at this time how many positions will be reduced due to retirements, how many open positions will be left unfilled, or how many people would be pink-slipped when the board finishes making cuts, Roscoe said.

"We're having a public hearing to get the opinion of the public," she said. "We're really going to have to look at the list and go from

See Cuts, page 3



## Hard won

Romulus Schools Director of Business and Finance Sherri Papazoglou (second from left) presented the "Youth of the Year" awards to Demetrius Scott and Azsah Matthews (center) at a recent Romulus School Board meeting. India Smith, another Romulus teen, also received an award but was not at the meeting. The teens were honored for their work with the Boys and Girls Club of America. Also pictured here are Jill Covell, the Boys and Girls Club director, and Advisory Board Member, the Rev. Arthur Willis.

## Biodiesel plan expected soon

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Feasibility appears to be the crux of the issue when it comes to allowing a biodiesel facility to come to Romulus.

Last week, representatives of Alternegy proposed building a \$14 million refinery adjacent to RKA Petroleum on Wick Road.

Councilman William Crova said he spoke with Margaret O'Brien, a consultant for Alternegy after the informal meeting and expressed concern about the size of the parcel the firm is interested in, which is about 4 acres.

"I spoke to her, and she said the firm will submit a site plan,"

he said. "I wouldn't say that I would need to visit a facility like this, but they would have to show us how it could work on that site."

It's likely that the group will appear before the planning commission soon for a site plan review, said Tim Keyes, city economic development director.

"The company has told me they will have the necessary plan sometime next week," he said. "What the council really needs to know is how a facility like this will fit on the land. Once we know that, we'll be able to move forward."

Alternegy would like to move forward with the plan because the state has introduced an incentive to lure biodiesel operators to Michigan. Ten Renaissance Zones

– which provide up to 10 years of tax breaks – have been established to attract the facilities.

Other states – mainly Minnesota and California – have introduced several incentives for the companies.

In Michigan, Alternegy looked at only one other municipality, Ecorse, as a place to locate, O'Brien said.

Before the facility could be constructed, Wayne County would have to apply for the zone designation. To do that, there must be a majority vote by the local governing body in support of the project.

Alternegy representatives said goal of the company would be to

See Plan, page 3

## School board gives superintendent high marks

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

The superintendent of schools is doing a good job.

Carl Weiss, who was hired in 2005 to take the place of retiring superintendent Joel Carr, received an evaluation from the seven-members of the Romulus Community School Board. Board members determined Weiss is doing a good job of steering the schools through a challenging statewide fiscal environment.

"I'm pleased the board is happy," Weiss said Tuesday.

Board member Celeste Roscoe said she believed the arrangement with Weiss is work-

ing out well for the district.

"He's doing well," she said. "Of course there's always room for improvement, but overall, he's doing well with some things that are difficult."

Weiss was hired by the district after an arduous, months-long interview process that involved 10 candidates in July 2006. That field was then narrowed to five, and Weiss emerged as top candidate. His hiring was approved 6-1 by the board.

A former deputy superintendent of schools for the Dearborn 7 District, Weiss immediately made one change that his predecessor refused to consider – opening up Schools of Choice spots at Merriman and Wick

schools to offset enrollment losses.

The Dearborn 7 Schools of Choice policy was largely crafted by Weiss and was one of the most aggressive in Michigan.

"I think that was a big factor in the positive review," he said. "The board responded well to the change."

So far, Weiss has dealt with several problematic issues as superintendent. He said the board acknowledged that some things that have happened under his relatively short tenure have been good for the schools.

"I think they know the Schools of Choice plan was the right thing to do, and they acknowledged that communications between

the board and the administration have improved," he said.

He said the coming 2007-08 school year will have some challenges.

"We're going in with a deficit," he said. "The rumors at the state level include everything from a \$200 per-student cut to nothing at all," he said.

"The bottom line is that we just don't know where it's going to go."

Weiss said the board has been supportive of him his first year, and that he has no reason to believe that will change in the foreseeable future.

"The budget situation is not pretty, but we're going to find a way to make it work out," he said.



# Passport to the Future

## Job fair allows high school students to evaluate careers

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Seniors at Belleville High School received a peek at their futures recently.

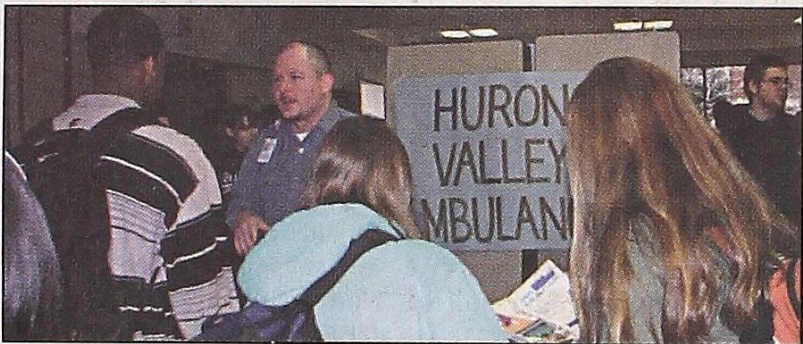
The school sponsored a first time 'Passport to Your Future' event that allowed graduating seniors to discover what life will be like after high school.

"The students will be leaving in a couple months and, this is a way to check out colleges and jobs and learn some skills they need to do that," said Susan Duda-Osborne, a family and consumer science teacher and organizer of the event.

During the two-hour rotation, senior class students were offered information on area colleges and careers and a variety of seminars. Colleges and technical

schools on hand to offer information included: the College for Creative Studies, William D. Ford Career and Technical Center, Henry Ford Community College, Eastern Michigan University, Specs Howard, Washtenaw Community College, Wayne County Community College District, Baker College, Schoolcraft College and Cleary University.

Skilled trades, unions and careers including: Cedar Point amusement park, Michigan Works, entrepreneurship, the U.S. Navy, Oakwood Health Systems, U of M Health Systems, gerontology, real estate, the Huron Valley Ambulance and the Van Buren Township and Belleville police and fire departments were also available for students.



During the 'Passport to Your Future' event, senior students were able to receive information about area colleges and careers like Huron Valley Ambulance, and go to a variety of seminars.

Seminar topics included: campus living and safety, interview skills, the Reserve Officers Training Corps in college, National City Banking, the Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

"We wanted to provide seniors with things we thought they would want to know about jobs, careers and campus life," said Duda-Osborne. "The students also took an exploring careers test and were able to use those results for the event."

Michael Jones, 18, said he was able to find a job for the summer: Cedar Point.

His friend, Adrain Pope, 17, said he was also interested in a summer job at the park, plus the college information.

"I plan on going to Eastern Michigan University for computers so I got a chance to talk to the representative about that."

"I also want to go to Eastern," said 18-year-old Pierre McClendon. "This event gave me the information I needed to know about living on campus and how to budget my money. I learned a lot."

Other students, like Sofia Lindblom, 18, and Lauren Korycinski, 18, were amazed by

some of the job fair discoveries.

"I was surprised to hear how much the board and cost of living is for college. I changed my mind and decided I'm going to live at home now and commute to school," said Korycinski. "I did

get a lot of good information about child care and social work, though, which is what I want to pursue."

"I know I want to go into media so I was able to talk to Specs Howard," said Lindblom.

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# Band teacher remembers the high notes

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Dick Kruse – the former Romulus Middle School band director and public relations director for the Romulus Community Schools – retired from the district for a second time Friday after more than 40 years on the job. The reason he’s leaving again is to go back to his life’s passion – teaching music and recruiting students for area bands.

“I’ve been with the schools for 41 years, so obviously, I’m going to miss it,” he said. “I’ve spent my entire career there, and there have been quite a few good moments, and not many bad.”

A native of Colonie, New York – which is a suburb of Albany – Kruse found himself in Michigan in the mid-1960s after he was attracted to the University of Michigan music program. He attended the university after a childhood filled with music.

His parents first discovered his talent in the fourth grade, after he picked up a clarinet.

“I just got very good very quickly,” he said. “By the time I was in the sixth grade, I was playing Mozart. That was considered a college-level piece. Soon, I was the first-chair clarinet in the all-state band. I think that’s where it all started. I was sort of a prodigy.”

As a younger man, he studied with the first-chair clarinet player from the New York Philharmonic, to further refine his talent. That talent took him to the Soviet Union – when few Americans had the chance to go to the Communist country – to play at the Tchaikovsky Theater.

It was at the University of Michigan that Kruse started thinking about a life in education.

“I never really thought I had to play in an orchestra to have a life in music,” he said.

Graduating didn’t come easy, even for a prodigy. University requirements held that music students had to learn how to arrange musical compositions on the piano – an instrument vastly different from the woodwinds Kruse was used to playing.

“I had to work hours on the piano,” he said.

After earning both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music with a focus on woodwind instruments, Kruse completed some credits towards his doctorate before joining the Romulus Community School District in 1966. Though he taught middle school students, Kruse eventually chaired the entire band program for the district.

Kruse said the band program was amazingly consistent in that the ups and obstacles always remained the same.

“Recruitment of talented, committed students was always an issue – getting enough students,” he said. “But when we got those students, it was great. They learned things in band they couldn’t learn anywhere else.”

That included self-esteem, Kruse said.

“In education, there’s always a lot of fads that come through, and some didn’t serve students well,” he said. “But learning to play a piece of music – and doing the work to get there – creates real self-esteem.”

Kruse said he prides himself on having ongoing relationships with his students, at least three of



Former band director Dick Kruse conducts with Woody Woodpecker at Universal Studios Theme Park.

whom have gone on to be band directors. “I always enjoy seeing former students,” he said. “It’s good to see that they’ve found success.”

Tim Burke, now the band director at Ferndale Middle School in Ferndale, remembers Kruse fondly.

“What I learned in (Kruse’s) class is the foundation of everything that I’m doing today,” he said. “He was just a really good teacher. It was hard work, but he made it fun. I learned so much from him – and I’ve seen him recently, and he said that I’m doing everything right today, which is great.”

The middle school band was part of several competitions and the students traveled throughout the United States under Kruse’s direction. They had the opportunity to play at Universal Studios – a feat not many bands get to take on.

“I really remember that as a high point in my career,” Kruse

said.

In 1999, Kruse elected to retire from the schools, but it didn’t last long. Then-superintendent Dr. William Bedell asked him to head a publicity campaign for a \$34 bond issue that was considered a tough sell.

“We passed it on the first try, which I’m very proud of,” Kruse said.

He stayed on as a media relations director for the district on a part-time basis.

But recently, the lure of the music called him back. He will begin recruiting talented students for a program run by Marshall Music, a retailer of instruments.

“In a way, it’s what I’ve always done,” he said. “I’m already very comfortable.”

As he looks back on his career, he said he’s glad he stayed in Romulus.

“I can’t remember any really bad days at work,” he said. “I’m going to miss the schools, there’s no doubt about it.”

# Safety mascot visits Cory Elementary School

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

County officials are hoping a 7-foot tall flashlight can shed some light on what to do in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

Ready Freddy, a giant flashlight that will serve as the new Wayne County safety mascot, will help second graders in Romulus get a handle on how to conduct themselves during such an unfortunate event tomorrow at Cory Elementary School as part of the

Ready Freddy and FitnessWise and Pound Smart safety/health outreach programs.

“(The programs make it possible to) reach beyond the walls of a classroom,” said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

The Ready Freddy/Plan & Prepare is the first such program in southeast Michigan. During the next week, the flashlight will also make an appearance at a Detroit school.

Officials hope an instructional character will help hold the attention of the students during

seminars to be conducted at several schools. Volunteers will wear the flashlight costume.

Ready Freddy’s chief goal is to reduce anxiety and fear in the event disaster strikes. Visual aids, such as building a home safety kit, activity book and Ready Freddy, help in imparting the message to students.

Through research, Wayne County community experts have learned this: serious messages can be best told with a dash of fun. For example, the county FitnessWise/Pound Smart pro-

gram uses humor, music and puppets to teach younger children the serious benefits of proper nutrition and exercise.

Ready Freddy is funded by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant and is patterned after a similar project in Howard County, Maryland.

Any school in Wayne County is eligible for a Ready Freddy visit. School officials interested in a Plan & Prepare/Ready Freddy workshop are asked to schedule well in advance. For details, call (313) 967-6021.

## Cuts

FROM PAGE 1

there.”

Cuts have become commonplace at many area school districts, but Romulus has been pummeled in the last few years. In the 2006 school year, a \$1.1 million deficit was eliminated by cuts that included the layoff of 42 teachers, paraprofessionals, school social workers, nurses, and support staff. Some of those individuals were called back as positions opened up in the following months, however.

Roscoe called the potential cuts “hard,” and said the goal for the cuts is a moving target because of unresolved funding issues at the state level.

“We don’t have anything that’s firm from the state, so it makes it harder,” she said. “Hopefully, we’re working on the high end of this. It’s always easier to put things back if you find out you’ll have to cut less.”Currently, the schools operate on a budget that is about \$38 million per year, Roscoe said.

Jason Salhaney, a teacher at Halecreek Elementary School and the president of the local teachers union, has been a critic of the cost-cutting initiatives put into place by

the district.

“Our position is and always have been that there doesn’t appear to be enough emphasis on revenue enhancement,” he said. “We had 700 students that have left the district to go to charter schools and other area schools. What are we doing to get those kids back?”

He also said advertising for the district needs to be ramped up to lure students, each of which brings state dollars with them.

The school board scheduled a special hearing about the cuts yesterday. More specific information from that meeting is posted at [www.journalgroup.com/Romulus](http://www.journalgroup.com/Romulus).

## Plan

FROM PAGE 1

break ground in April or May, and begin operation by December 2007.

Keyes said the timeline is not written in stone.

“They originally wanted to be on the April agenda for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation April meeting, but now they’re talking about May,” he said. “It’s not going to be detrimental to the project if it’s not exactly within the timeline they proposed.”

## News in brief

### Cell phones needed

The Wayne County Sheriff’s Department is looking for used cell phones to give to seniors who need a way to call 911 in a medical emergency or other dire situation.

Sheriff Warren Evans last week OK’d the collection of donated cell phones free of charge at three different locations in Wayne County.

Although the phones may not have an active calling plan, they still can be used to dial 911. An emergency 911 call is always free and will connect the user to the nearest local emergency operator. However, in order for the operator to send help, the person calling will need to tell them their exact location.

Phones will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Anyone who wants to donate a working cell phone and charger may do so by dropping them off at the following Wayne County Sheriff’s Office locations: The Administration Building, 1231 St. Antoine; the Road Patrol Office, 3100 Henry Ruff at Michigan Avenue in Westland and the Highland Park station, located in Model T Plaza on Woodward Avenue, two blocks north of the Davison Freeway.

To request a cell phone, contact the sheriff’s office at (313) 224-0614. If a phone cannot be provided, the caller’s name will be paced on the waiting list.

### Parks department schedules egg hunt

The Romulus Recreation Department annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place behind the new Senior Center, which is located at 36252 Bibbins Road. Parking is available at the center.

The event will begin off at noon on Saturday, April 7. This year, there are four ages groups: 3 years old and under; 4-5 years old; 6-7 years old and 8-10 years old.

Some eggs will have tickets in them that can be turned in for special prizes.

The event is free for all families, but photographs with the Easter Bunny will cost \$2.

Children are asked to bring a bag with them to collect the eggs.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call Romulus Parks and Recreation at (734) 941-8665.



# OPINION

## How can we help?

When representatives of the firm Alternegy approached the Romulus City Council with plans to construct a biodiesel refinery in the city, members of the council had a few questions.

Here's one they should be asking:

What can we do to help?

The proposed development, at about \$14 million, isn't exactly a cash cow for the city—particularly when state tax incentives are factored in. It probably won't bring in too many jobs, either.

That's not the point.

The point is, at a time when the Michigan economy is floundering, local municipalities should do everything they can to spur businesses within their borders. Biodiesel fuels and other alternative energy solutions need as much help as they can find to get off the ground in order that this fledgling effort can gather some momentum and help our planet on a long-term basis.

Officials in most municipalities will tell you they don't like granting tax incentives. Perhaps it questions the pride they have in their community—they think that any developer would want to bring their business to town because they see it through the same rosy glasses as residents and officials do.

In a perfect world, that may well be the case. This is not a perfect world, though.

If we want to bring more business into our communities, we're going to have to lure them. We're going to have to dangle a few carrots. We're going to have to offer any kind of help we can.

The prospect of bringing a refinery into a community may not be one that is relished by city leaders. Refineries themselves conjure up images of tall smokestacks belching forth plumes of black smoke. That's an outdated image, though.

The location cited is already in the heart of an industrial district and next to petroleum wholesaler.

It's sounds like a good fit and the State of Michigan can use the help.

## Please, keep it civil

The community forums hosted by the Northville Public School District to seek input on their proposed boundary changes got off to a rocky start Friday morning.

About halfway through David Bolitho's explanation of the plan, the assistant superintendent found himself shouted down by angry parents.

This happened in an elementary school gymnasium where a giant poster on wall read: "Respect: you have to give it to get it."

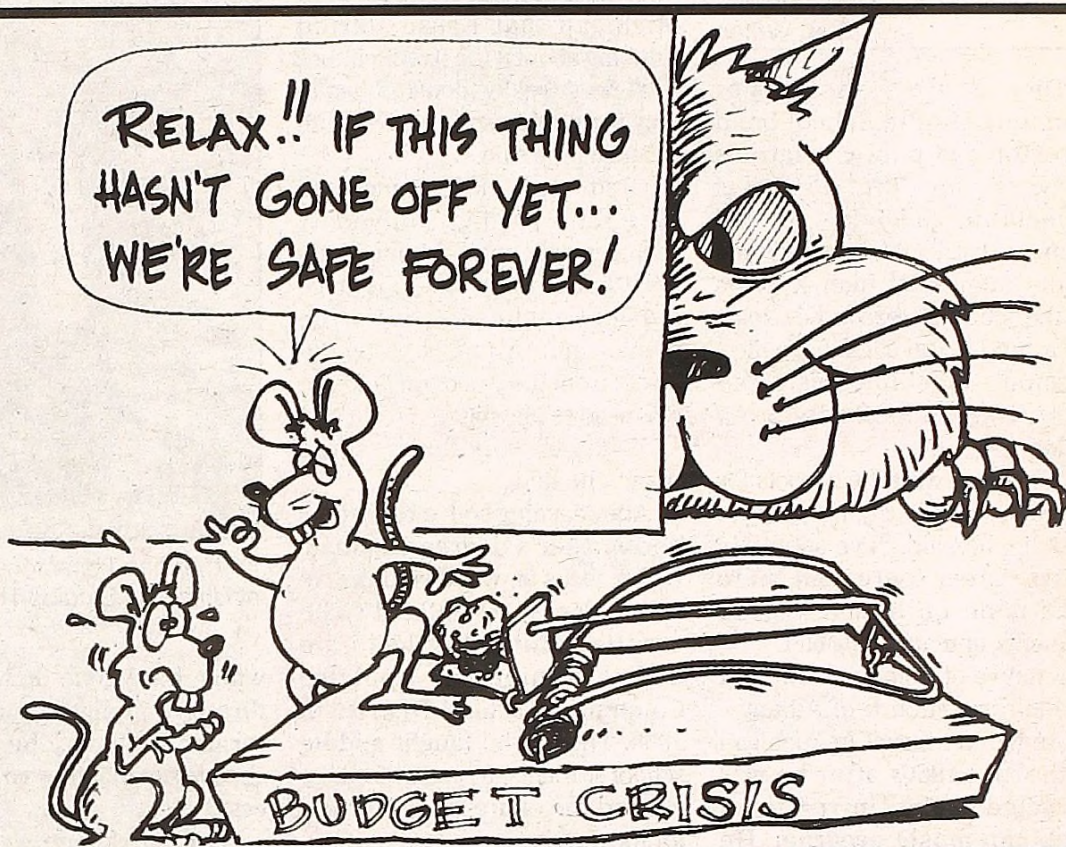
The forum following the first meeting was a lot more calm and reasonable, and we hope that's the tract that parents take as the school board ponders this issue.

This is one of the things that makes serving on school boards a sometimes thankless job. You know going into it that you are going to make some people upset. There's no way to avoid it. If you didn't have one group of parents shouting at you and questioning your intelligence, you'd probably have another. For those seeking re-election, it's even more difficult. For those seeking to unseat them, it's nearly a dream come true.

Northville School Board members don't have too many choices here. They are responding to the will of the community: the community that rejected two bond proposals a year ago, the community that told them through several Managing Our Growth forums that they wanted to keep class sizes small and keep a relative small number of classes at each elementary school.

They have to weigh those factors and look into the future at the same time, which is a difficult thing to do. Prognosticating widespread growth isn't as sure as it was even a year ago. New students are coming, they're just not arriving in the numbers they did when the community was expe-

See **Schools**, page 5



## That's a construction turnaround

I give the officials here in the City of Wayne a lot of grief for not acting quickly.

Anybody remember the Andrews University plan?

So I was a little surprised this week to see the speed with which they moved to help out businesses suffering because of the Michigan Avenue reconstruction project.

Last Wednesday, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting for business owners—and anybody else with proactive ideas—to come up with a plan to deal with the long construction season.

It started at 8:30 a.m.

One of the things discussed was a way to relax the city sign ordinance and give businesses some more visibility in the tough times ahead. City Manager John Zech seemed to hedge his answer a bit, but said they'd look into it.

Three hours later, I ran into Zech, Community Development Director Peter McInerney and City Attorney Dick Clark at another function. Clark already had some ideas scrawled on a piece of

scrap paper; he and McInerney came up with some more thoughts there. Those were transcribed and put on the agenda at the meeting Tuesday night.

That, to me, is how government is supposed to function. A problem is identified, administration is put into motion and a solution is approved less than a week later.

There may be some people out there that point out this kind of decision could have come before the project started, and shouldn't have required a plea of desperation from the business community to make it happen.

Maybe so, but as boring as they are to read, sign ordinances are always prickly issues. Besides, the city took several steps to ensure the businesses would get some traffic in front of their establishments before the project even started. I did not know the first plan promoted by the Michigan Department of Transportation had the

See **Action**, page 5

## Protect, serve and keep informed

Canton Township Executive Director of Public Safety John Santomauro calls them "high-profile cases": a 2-year-old bound with duct tape while the suspect allegedly videotapes the incident; a woman who leaves her children inside a parked van while she visits her boyfriend; a man who leaves an infant, just weeks old, with nine broken bones.

They are high profile because the facts of the cases are unique. They spark gossip in the community, shock that "it could happen here."

Of course, anything can happen here. Canton may be a haven for young families and an overall safe place to live, but it has its share of moments in the media spotlight, like any suburb around here: just ask folks in Washington Township or Adrian. If I told you the facts of nearly any crime, could you tell me if it happened in Grosse Pointe, or Novi or Sterling Heights?

The most recent attention-grabber is the tragic story of Ashley Pierce, the young girl who was found three weeks after her death in her Canton apartment. Police also told of Pierce's roommate, who continued to live in the apartment and allegedly scam money from Pierce's father, who lives in northwest Michigan.

People would ask me: "What's going on in Canton? Has the town gone crazy?"

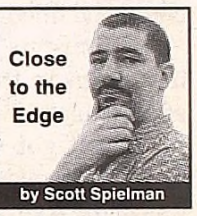
Even though they are high-profile, Santomauro's department doesn't shy away from the media reporting about it. Canton releases the

news about every major crime—you aren't hearing about most incidents on the 5 o'clock news because a TV reporter is hanging around the police station—and they aren't afraid the incident will give the town a bad name. They believe the people have a right to know.

I would sooner judge a community not on crime rates alone, but on how the community responds to crime. Canton is lucky to have a police force committed not just to arresting criminals, but going the extra mile to try and prevent it.

The department is ramping up efforts on data collection and analysis. They've installed cameras and microphones on all squad cars to monitor traffic stops and protect themselves against complaints. They're putting a new emphasis on awareness seminars and community policing, a neighborhood initiative they've stuck with and has produced results. A good department is getting better and, hopefully, making a safe community safer.

With each day on the beat I become less surprised of what people are capable of. But a few criminals don't speak for a town. As strange as a crime may seem, that doesn't reflect the mostly good people that live and work here. That's why it's good for a cynic to spend some time in Canton. It may shock you to hear about crime here. I'd be more shocked if nobody cared.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



Local ties

by Kevin Hill

# JOURNAL

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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays  
at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.  
Central office hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Phone 734-467-1900**  
for general business, advertising or editorial information.

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# Schools

FROM PAGE 4

riencing an unprecedented rate of growth. The board can't choose where the newcomers move in, either; they can only react to it. At the same time, they have to ensure there's enough capacity at the schools to accommodate growth—thus ensuring they don't have to go through this headache in the near future—as well as the parents who want to keep their children at their current schools through the open enrollment program.

It's a tricky issue and it's never a perfect process, no matter how hard district officials try to make it so. It's guaranteed to make someone, somewhere angry.

Anger, though, isn't a justification to be disrespectful to people who are trying to do the best they can for the overall community.

# Action

FROM PAGE 4

entire westbound side closed down and traffic shifted to the eastbound lanes. I learned that last Wednesday.

City leaders have also pounded home the concept that they wanted it complete in one construction cycle—so much so that they allowed contractors to get an early start on it.

The ordinance discussed Tuesday night was good, too, in that it didn't focus on just the

## Smoking ban is supported

To the editor:  
I support SB 109, a bill to make Michigan workplaces smoke free. This very important bill will protect all Michigan workers, including bar and restaurant employees, from the deadly toxins of secondhand smoke.

Involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke is a serious public health hazard. The Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A Carcinogen and therefore concludes it is a health risk to non-smokers. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. and has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, stroke, emphysema and asthma.

According to the Surgeon General, the only effective protec-

tion against secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate indoor smoking. Comprehensive workplace policies reduce tobacco related illnesses and the cost of treating them.

Smoke free air legislation makes sense for workers and communities. Workers are 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer because of their exposure to secondhand smoke at work. No one should have to choose between their job and their health. A number of economic studies show that comprehensive smoke free workplace laws have a positive impact on businesses. According to a 2005 Campaign for Smoke free Air (CSA) poll, two-thirds of Michigan registered voters are in favor of smoke free workplace legislation that includes bars and restaurants, and 80 percent said it is important to work in a smoke free environ-

## Letters

ment. Nonsmoking sections and ventilation systems do not eliminate exposure to the more than 60 cancer-causing chemicals contained in secondhand smoke.

Michigan should join the 26 other states that have enacted smoke free

legislation and pass SB 109. I call on the Michigan Legislature to protect all Michigan workers and pass SB 109. I urge all Michigan voters to do the same.

If you support smoke free air in all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, visit [www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org). If you are a bar or restaurant employee that supports smoke free air visit the BREATHE (Bar and Restaurant Employees Advocating Together for a Healthy Environment) web site at [www.breathemi.org](http://www.breathemi.org). You can have a voice in the fight to make

Michigan smoke free!

Sue Wade,  
Belleville

## Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

businesses impacted by the Michigan Avenue work. It's inevitable, if something like that happened, that businesses elsewhere would want to push the envelope, too. It takes care of the issue by describing where and when the signs can be used, how they can look and when they have to be taken down.

In short, it's a timely, effective piece of local legislation. It may not provide the financial assistance that business owners were looking for, but it's a step in the right direction—and a quick one at that.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:45  
REIGN OVER ME (R)  
(11:20) 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:50  
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE (PG)  
(11:15) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15  
FRI/SAT LS 11:15  
SHOOTER (R) (11:00) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40  
PREMONITION (PG-13)  
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:30  
300 (R) 1:10, 3:40, 6:55, 9:25  
FRI/SAT LS 11:45  
WILD HOGS (PG-13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00  
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# Oakwood pledges not to abandon Annapolis

Scott Spielman  
Editor

Rumors of the closure of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne have been greatly exaggerated, according to officials at the health organization.

Brian Connolly, chief executive officer (CEO) of Oakwood Health Care, Inc. again dispelled reports that a proposal to construct a new facility in Canton Township meant the days of the 60-year-old facility in Wayne were numbered.

"We're not leaving Annapolis," Connolly told a group of Wayne officials and business leaders last week. "We're not leaving this community. We are not closing."

Officials from Oakwood Health Care, Inc. are proposing a plan in Canton Township that would bring a new facility to the corner of Beck and Geddes roads. They have an option on 88 acres of land

that could ultimately house a 650,000-square foot structure. Constructed in two phases, the second phase would include about 100 hospital beds, according to Connolly—but only if the company could prove to the State of Michigan that the need for them is there.

"It took 20 years to do that in Novi," Connolly said. "It's not going to happen any time soon."

Even if it did, Oakwood would still maintain the Annapolis facility, Connolly said. There are currently 259 beds at the hospital, but only 150 are occupied during the busiest times. The plan would call for the 100 beds to be removed from Oakwood and the existing space would be renovated to make for larger, private rooms. He said providing more private rooms is the trend in the industry.

"They're safer, they're quieter and there's less infection," he said. "And everyone likes their privacy."

Tom Kochis, vice-president of Oakwood, said similar renovations have already taken place at Oakwood as part of the ongoing renovation plan.

"We've converted a lot of space into counseling areas or office areas," he said. "We've used that space."

Connolly said the company has invested about \$40 million in the facility during the last several years with a new surgery center, renovations to the emergency room and ongoing work at the birthing center.

They've opened a clinic based in Inkster, too, that treats people at a reduced or no cost, based on their ability to pay.

"It speaks to our commitment to the community," said Connolly, who was appointed to the CEO post about seven weeks ago.

City Manager John Zech said he was relieved.

"It's good news to hear," he said. "It's been a prime employer and it's a facility that the city has gotten used to having."

## Veterans' Haven plans 2 events to aid servicemen

Meghan Chatham  
Staff Writer

Veteran's Haven of Wayne is accepting registrations for two upcoming events designed to aid homeless veterans.

According to Scott Romp, public relations coordinator for the group, the programs are designed to help the registered non-profit organization continue to meet a growing need.

"In the Detroit Metro area, we have close to 5,000 homeless veterans," he said. "Michigan ranks eighth in the country. We're seeing more and more people coming into our program."

It's a number that he said will continue to increase as military personnel returning from tours of duty overseas run into roadblocks and slowdowns in receiving their compensation from the government.

"The Veterans Administration right now is underfunded and overburdened," he said.

Romp added that a condition of veterans receiving their compensation is often seeing a doctor—and that the average wait time is around eight months. In the meanwhile, he said, veterans—particularly those without strong networks of family or friends to fall back on—can get caught in a spiral that ends in homelessness.

Veteran's Haven essentially runs interference and aids former service members who might otherwise slip through the

cracks.


To generate funds necessary to continue to help veterans, organizers have planned a shooting competition. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and between 6-8 p.m. throughout the week of May 14, visitors to the Firing Line indoor gun range in Westland will be able to compete in exchange for a \$15 donation. Participants can shoot more than once with the highest score being recorded and two divisions—military and non-military—will be available. All proceeds will benefit Veteran's Haven. The Firing Line is located at 38427 Webb Drive off of Hix Road, just north of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 326-7320 or Veteran's Haven at (734) 478-0822.

Tickets are also available for an Armed Forces Day dinner, which will be offered from 7 p.m. to midnight on May 19. Scheduled to take place at the Wayne Ford Civic League, the party will include live music by the Christy Howard Band, award presentations for the winners of the shooting competition, a buffet dinner, and an open bar. The Wayne Ford Civic League is located on 1645 N. Wayne Road in Westland. The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Veteran's Haven at (734) 478-0822.

"We all support our troops, but we have to support them when they come home as well," said Romp.

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### CITY OF ROMULUS

#### NOXIOUS WEED NOTICE TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS

In accordance with P.A. 359 of 1941, as amended and Chapter 19, Article 3, of the Romulus Code of Ordinances it shall be the duty of all owners of lands on which noxious weeds are found growing, to destroy the same before they reach a seed bearing stage and to prevent such weeds from becoming a detriment to public health.

If any such owner, agent or occupant of such land shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds or cause them to be destroyed, it shall be the duty of the Noxious Weed Commissioner to enter upon such land and destroy such noxious weeds.

Nothing in this notice shall apply to weeds in fields devoted to growing any small grain crop such as wheat, oats, barley or rye.

All weeds not cut by May 1, 2007 will be cut by the City and the owner of the property will be charged with the cost. Subsequent violations will result in additional cuttings and will be done as often as necessary when vegetation reaches 12 inches in height and/or seed bearing stage.

Any expense incurred in such destruction shall be paid by the owner or owners of such land, and the city shall have a lien against such land for such expense. Any owner who shall refuse to destroy such noxious weeds shall also be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00 per cutting in the discretion of the court.

All refuse and debris on the given owners property will be removed by the City at the owners' expense.

Publish: March 22, 2007  
March 29, 2007

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# Write on

## Local shelter owner's book due next month

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Marcy LaFramboise, owner of the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue (FMAR) in Belleville, is now an author.

Her first book, which is currently untitled, will be published next month. It deals with the journey of opening the non-profit animal shelter and all the adventures along the way, she said.

"It starts out from the beginning: pets we had growing up, when Pete (her husband) and I met, our volunteer work, our first shelter pet, and our passion for opening up our own shelter," she said. "It's also got special shelter stories and pet tips from the experts."

*If you look at where we started—in my house—to where we are now, who would have ever thought we would come this far.*

**Marcy LaFramboise**

"This is my first book and hopefully not my last," LaFramboise added.

After working full-time, running an animal shelter and writing the newsletter for FMAR, it's been a challenge to write this book, she said. However, it was something she had to do for both the shelter and her mother.

"My mom literally made me do it," LaFramboise said. "I needed a way to raise money for the

shelter and my mom and her friends thought my pet stories would make great children's stories. They encouraged me to at least give it a try."

LaFramboise did, but was unsuccessful in getting published. It wasn't until she was listening to talk radio one morning and heard Marion Nelson of Nelson Publishing and Marketing.

"I sent her my stuff and she

called me back saying she didn't see children stories, but she did see a book," said LaFramboise. "It was harder than I thought. I already had the material, but I went through a lot of drafts and help to do this."

"I talk a lot about the volunteers and people who have helped. I'm very thankful for everything," she added. "If you look at where we started—in my house—to where we are now, who would have ever thought we would come this far. I want people to get a feel for the passion that Pete and I have for the shelter and what it is like to run one."

Future writing plans could include another animal shelter book, LaFramboise said.

"I think I'd still like to write at



Marcy LaFramboise

least one more book. This is my way of giving back some of the love they give to me," said LaFramboise.

For more information or to purchase a book, contact the shelter at vb-petlover@comcast or (734) 461-9458. It will also be available at Petco stores, FeedRite in Belleville and other area events. All proceeds from the book will go to support the Friends of Michigan Animal Shelter.

## Sex suspect never employed at schools, say district officials

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

A recent police report that a coach from the Van Buren Public School District was charged with criminal sexual conduct is inaccurate, according to the school district.

"We would like to clarify that this individual is not now nor has ever been an employee or coach

with the Van Buren Public School District. There is no reason to believe that any Van Buren Public School District students were ever alone with this individual," said Paul Henning, school district spokesperson.

Last week, the suspect, Kenneth Dion Johnson, 35, of Willis was charged with six counts of criminal sexual conduct after he was accused of having a sexual rela-

tionship with a 15-year-old girl he was coaching in Washtenaw County, according to police reports.

Johnson was an employee at the West Middle School in Ypsilanti. He is not an employee, coach or hall monitor of the Van Buren Public School District, which was reported by a Detroit area television station.

However, Johnson did assist with the Van Buren girl's basket-

ball practices last August and assisted in boy's basketball practices during a three-week period in February, according to school officials.

"It has been confirmed by our coaching staff that this individual was never alone with any of the students and was, at all times, supervised by certified Van Buren Public School District coaches," Henning said. "His offer to help

with the teams came about through friendships with the school coaching staff."

Belleville police officials also confirmed this incident has nothing to do with the Van Buren schools, according to Ofc. Kristy Faull, who is also a school resource officer at Belleville High School.

For more information, contact Superintendent of Schools Pete Lazaroff at (734) 697-9123 ext. 209.

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# SPORTS

## Whalers ready for playoffs

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers have proved all season that they are one of—if not the—premier teams in the Ontario Hockey League.

Now, the team is on its way to the playoffs where they will make some noise, win or lose. The Whalers have had too good a season to go away quietly. They finished with an 49-14-2-3 record to earn 103 points—second overall in the league and the second highest in the team's history.

The exciting regular season came to an end when the Whalers toppled the visiting Kitchener Rangers, 3-2, on Saturday.

Left winger Tom Sestito notched the win for the Plymouth. At 4:45 of the third period with the score knotted, 2-2, he took a pass from Chris Terry and knocked it by Kitchener goalie Chris Lavigne.

Evan Brophey racked up the other two goals for the Plymouth.

The win sets the momentum for the Whalers heading into the first-round of playoffs against the Guelph Storm. The best-of-seven Western Conference Quarterfinal series starts at 7:05 pm on Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

"I think that we put ourselves in good position to have a good playoff series," said Mike Vellucci, head coach, president

and general manager of the Whalers. "We had a good season and we just want to continue that. But anything can happen in the playoffs."

Although Plymouth and Guelph don't play each other often enough to be considered rivals—they played each other four times during the regular season; Plymouth won three of the four this season—the two teams have plenty of history.

The Storm knocked the Whalers out in game six of the opening round last year and swept the Whalers, 4-0, in the conference final in 2004. Plymouth eliminated Guelph, 4-2, in 2000's conference quarterfinals.

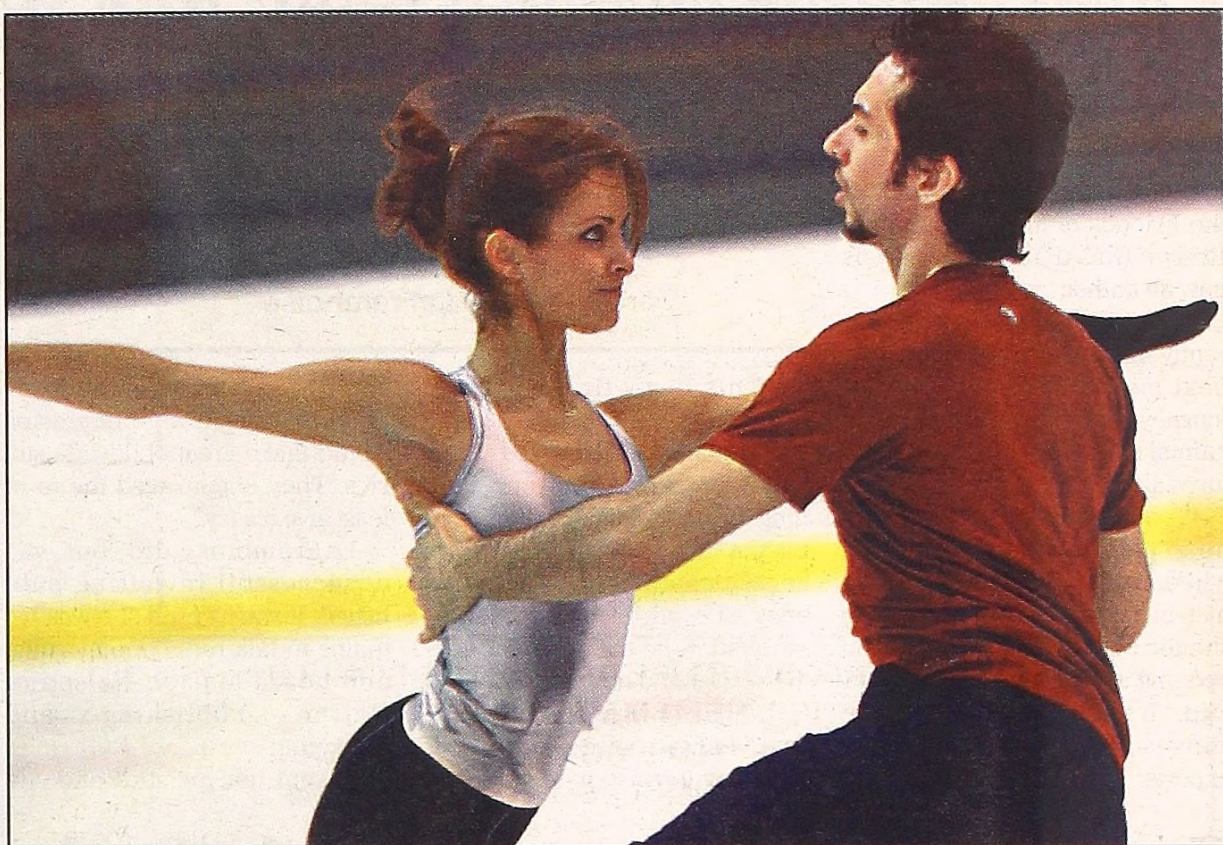
"It's a new year," Vellucci said, "and we're a better team than we were last year."

Unlike last year, the Whalers have plenty of firepower. They even peppered the Rangers with 54 shots in Saturday's contest.

While veterans Sestito, who leads the team in scoring with 41 goals, and Brophey, who leads the team in points with 34 goals and 71 assists for 105 total, proved their moves on the ice it was Vellucci's moves off that have benefited the team the most.

In January Vellucci traded for center Daniel Ryder (Peterborough), right winger Sean O'Connor (Erie) and defender Steve Whitely (Belleville).

See **Whalers**, page 10



2007 U.S. pairs champions Brooke Castile and Benjamin Okolski finish their practice session at the Arctic Edge last week. They head to the World Championships for the first time.

## Skaters head to World Championships

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

When it comes to world-class ice skating the Arctic Edge in Canton Township is in a league of its own.

After Michigan residents and Olympic silver medallists Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto's success the last few years, the ice arena has become a mecca of sorts for figure skating pairs and ice-dancing couples.

They flock there to train with famed coaches Igor Shpilband and Marina Zoueva. This year the coaches will send not just Belbin and Agosto to the World Championships, but three other

couples as well.

The eight skaters will converge on Tokyo, Japan this week to compete in the biggest event of the season.

"It's pretty neat to have so many skaters from the same facility," Shpilband said.

"I'm so excited and very happy because this is a good group here," added Zoueva.

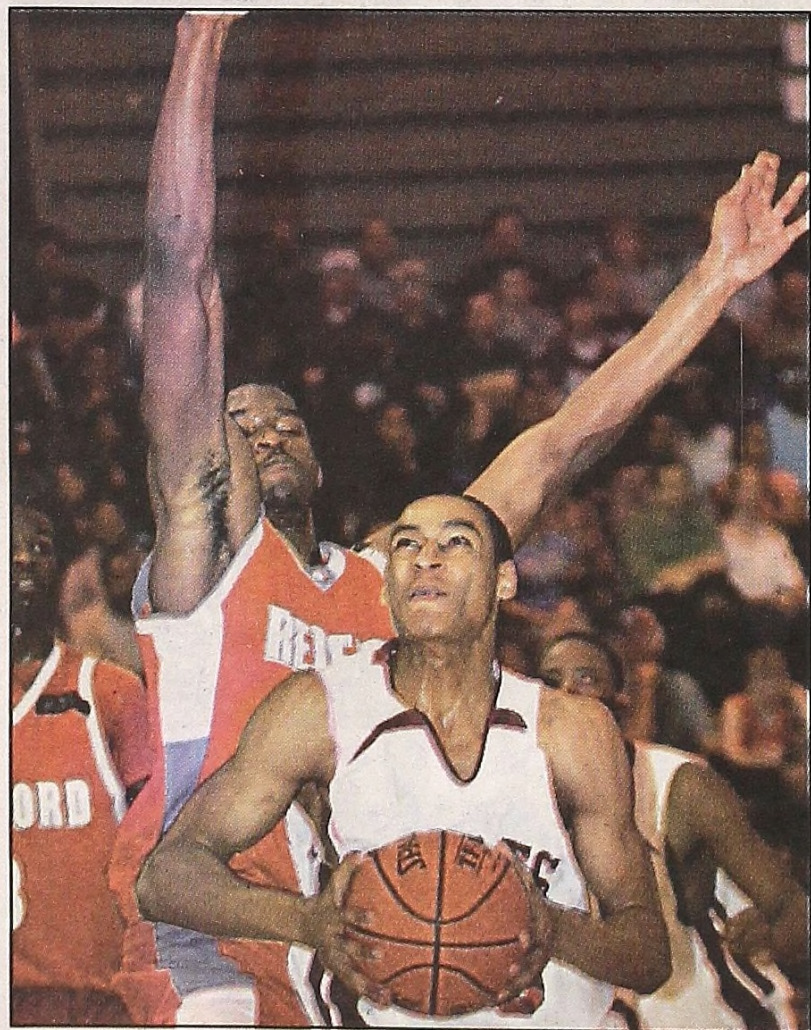
The coaches and skaters have been working overtime to ensure success this year.

"Our coaches have a lot of techniques at their disposal that they impose upon us and they've done just an amazing job getting us all in shape," Agosto said. "And I think, speaking for Tanith and

myself, this is the best shape we have ever been in our competitive career so we're really looking forward to going in and not being worried if we're going to get through the program all right and just really focusing on doing everything the best that we can and performing for the audience."

This marks the seventh World Championship for ice dancers Belbin and Agosto. They placed second in the competition in 2005 (3rd in 2006), notched second at the 2006 Olympic games and are fresh off their fourth U.S. National Championship and sec-

See **Skaters**, page 10



Romulus senior forward Dwayne Edwards (33) tries to make a move against Redford's defense in the 58-52 regional loss at Ypsilanti Lincoln High School last Tuesday.

## Romulus falls in regional opener

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Romulus Eagle varsity basketball team had a door wide open for possibilities this season.

The team won a piece of the conference won the district and was well on its way to making a Cinderella run in the state regional competition.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, that door was slammed shut last Tuesday when they ran up against Detroit Redford in the opening round of the regional play at Ypsilanti Lincoln High School.

The Romulus Eagle basketball squad hasn't been easy to outplay over the last month but somehow Detroit Redford found a way. The Eagles struggled offensively and never found their rhythm in the 58-52 regional loss.

The other factor was the force of one player.

Redford's Corperryale Harris—winner of the Mr. Basketball Award—was the difference-maker. If the University of Michigan

recruit wasn't slam-dunking or laying in baskets or hitting jumpers and faders, he was draining NBA-distance triples like they were going out of style. He finished with 41 points and 12 rebounds for the Huskies and he did so with defenders hanging all over him.

"He's the best we ever played against since I've been here," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "I thought Laron (Rogers) did a really good job on him. To give up 41 out of 58 to one guy is definitely a problem but our overall team defense wasn't that bad it was more of our offense that was the problem, I thought."

The Eagles struggled in all facets of the offense. Baskets were hard to come by.

Oats said he went against the initial strategy to shrinking up the rotation in favor of playing everyone on the 14-man roster in an attempt to spark the offense. In the end, he had 10 players score. Nobody scored in double figures. Three players—Dominique Buckley, Devin Searcy and Valdez

Green—scored nine. The next closest was Martell Anderson's seven and Rogers' six.

"Just about every one of the 14 guys on the team, at some point in the year, has come alive on offense and we were struggling on offense," Oats said. "We couldn't put the ball in the hole and we just tried to find somebody who could."

Romulus kept it close in the first. Senior Rod Walker put the Eagles on the board first when he split a pair from the line. Then Searcy tipped in Buckley's shot for a 3-1 lead for the team's largest and last lead of the game.

From the 6:31 mark of the first when he hit a giant triple for the Huskies to take the lead until the final buzzer it was the Harris show.

Green nailed a triple at the end of the first to knot the game at 11 and that's how the opening frame would finish.

Harris went on an 11-2 run to open the second quarter that

See **Eagles**, page 9



SPORTS

Eagles

FROM PAGE 8

would give the Huskies a 27-19 halftime lead.

Romulus came out in the new half and went on a 10-2 spree, knotting the contest at 29, but Harris answered with another big three and a Romulus turnover sent him on a slam-dunk mission.

Buckley retaliated with back-to-back triples to make it a 37-35, Redford, game. Romulus only trailed by two, 39-37 at the end of three.

Buckley nailed his third triple of the night with 12 seconds left and Green followed with his third to make it a four-point game, 56-52, with two seconds left. A foul sent Harris to the line where he

put the game away, 58-52.

“I thought we played scared; I don’t get it,” Oats said. “We put together the toughest schedule in the state to prepare ourselves for big games like this.

“I thought the last 14 games we really got it together,” he added.

“I really thought we were starting to roll. We just got tight and didn’t make plays in a big game. I feel bad for the four seniors.”

The team will say goodbye to Walker, Searcy, Dwayne Edwards and Antoine James. That leaves plenty of experience to return next year.

“We have 10 guys back and they all have experience in big games,” Oats said. “I’m really looking forward to coaching next year’s team. I think they got 10 guys with really great attitudes that really want to work hard. We’re going to be really, really good.”

ROMULUS HOUSING COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BID

The Romulus Housing Commission will receive bids until March 29, 2007, in the office of the Commission, 34200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan, at which time bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. for the provision of lawn maintenance service for 101 dwelling units of public Housing and the Housing Commission Administration Office. All properties are located in the City of Romulus, Michigan. Bid documents can be obtained during regular business hours, at the Housing Commission Office, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For more information please call area code (734) 729-5389.

Romulus Housing Commission, is an equal opportunity employer.

Publish: March 15, 2007  
March 22, 2007

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 5, 2007

IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Randolph Gear. **Present:** John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.

**Administrative Officials in Attendance:**

Alan Lambert, Mayor  
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-057

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 26, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes- Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Abstain - Barden.  
Motion Carried.

07-058

3. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to grant a no-fee permit for a fund raiser “Walk-A-Thon” on Saturday, April 21, 2007, from at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon to raise money for Lindsay Radcliff, a three year old who suffers from Progeria; (all proceeds will go to the Progeria Research Foundation); after concurrence with the Romulus Police Department, the walk will begin at the Romulus Community High School and ending at the Blue Sky Dairy Queen on Huron River Drive.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-059

- 4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Loretta Yvonne Brown.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Barden, supported by Bragg to accept the Chairperson’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-060

- 5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 06/07-17:

FUND/DEPT ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
<b>General Fund</b>				
<b>Expense</b>				
101-3110-731.71-10	Police - Overtime	385,000	377,000	762,000
<b>Revenue</b>				
101-0000-410.65-10	Fines & Forfeitures	709,569	377,000	1,086,569

**To recognize additional court fines & forfeitures revenue and cover police department overtime.**

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-061

- 5B. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Department of Public Works Director, Tom Wilson and designate Monday, May 14,

2007 through Saturday May 19, 2007 as Spring Clean Up Week, including free dumping of non-hazardous trash at the DPW for Romulus residents.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-062

- 5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Recreation Director, Kristin Irwin, and designate the weekend of May 17 through May 20, 2007, as our City Wide Yard Sale Weekend and grant approval for no fee permits to be issued for those interested residents and further designate the weekend of May 31 through June 3, 2007, as rainout dates.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-063

- 5D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to award Bid 06/07-14, demolition list 05-02 and 04-02 to Van Assche Construction in the amount of \$24,675.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-064

- 5E. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a 36 month Contractual Services contract with AT&T for voice and data telephone related services for the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-065

- 6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 06/07-23, operating supplies, introduced at the Council meeting held February 26, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

07-066

- 6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to schedule a study session to review a proposal to construct a bio-diesel refinery at the RKA Petroleum site on March 12, 2007, in the City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.  
Nays - None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted  
Eva W. Webb, Deputy City Clerk  
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Eva W. Webb, Deputy City Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 5, 2007.

Eva W. Webb, Deputy City Clerk  
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: March 22, 2007



# SPORTS

## Skaters

FROM PAGE 8

ond at the Four Continents event last month.

Although the pair has the experience, Belbin said it never really gets any easier.

"The pressures change and now with added responsibility of having good results in past world championships—you certainly don't want to disappoint—so the pressure has shifted," she said. "We're always trying to prove ourselves. We're not near our plateau and we still believe we are trying to skate like we have nothing to lose."

This week will be a new experience for the other skaters. Among those are 2007 U.S. pairs champions Brooke Castile and Benjamin Okolski and 2007 U.S. ice dancing bronze medallist Meryl Davis and Charlie White.

Representing Canada by way of Canton is 2007 Canadian ice dancing silver medallists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

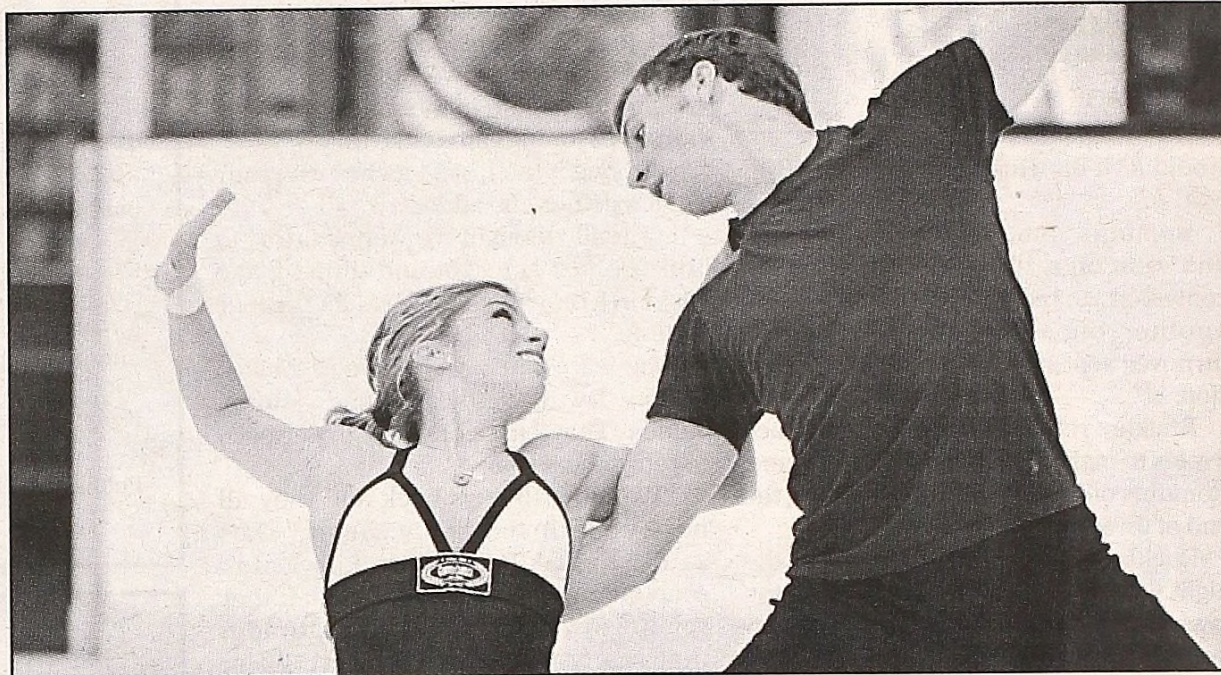
"I'm not nervous at all," Castile said. "We're going there to skate and do our job. I don't worry about the other teams or how big of an event it is. We're still doing the same program; we're still doing everything the same that we do every day. I'm just excited to be there—it's the World Championships."

"This is something that we've been looking forward to all of our careers," Davis added.

Even though the couples are essentially competing against one another they show a rare camaraderie that resembles a group of old friends rather than opponents. Belbin said she would welcome the support of her friends.

"This will be a very different experience for us to have such a big support group around us and I think that is something that we are looking forward to," she said. "We really support each other and to have your friends their cheering you on every day is a gift. We are very lucky to be a part of this group."

"It will make us a lot more relaxed and feel more comfort-



2007 U.S. pairs champions Brooke Castile and Benjamin Okolski finish their practice session at the Arctic Edge last week. They head to the World Championships for the first time.

able going out there and doing our stuff like we do every day," Okolski added.

The bond among the competitors is something that is instilled by the coaches and is rare among other training facilities.

"I think the real story here is

the camp that Marina and Igor have created for us here," Belbin said. "It is not something that you will find anywhere else in the country if not the world. If anyone can see the discipline and the camaraderie that we have here every day, it is literally the

most amazing thing I've ever seen."

Fans can catch the World Championships on ESPN and ESPN 2 this week.

For more updates go to [www.journalgroup.com](http://www.journalgroup.com) "From the Cheap Seats" blog.

## Whalers

FROM PAGE 8

Ryder was last year's playoff MVP. Between the two teams he amassed 40 goals and 52 assists for 92 points this season.

Vellucci said the new additions provide some much-needed

depth.

"Ryder and O'Connor have put up the numbers that we expected," he added, "and Whitely is solid on defense."

The third piece of the puzzle that mapped out the successful regular season was goaltending.

Plymouth has two solid guys between the pipes. So if one falters the other is in prime posi-

tion to fill the space.

Jeremy Smith is 23-6-0-1 for the regular season. He has a goals-against average of 2.59 and save percentage of .923. He also notched the win against Kitchener on Saturday, stopping 31 shots.

Michal Neuvirth has almost identical numbers. He has a 26-8-1-2 record with a 2.36 goals-

against average and a .931 save percent.

"Goaltending is what wins playoffs and championships," Vellucci said. "Both guys are very solid."

The playoff schedule is:

Game 1 - Sat. Mar. 24 at 7:05 pm—Guelph at Plymouth  
Game 2 - Sun. Mar. 25 at 6:30 pm—Plymouth at Guelph

Game 3 - Tues. Mar. 27 at 7:05 pm—Guelph at Plymouth  
Game 4 - Thurs. Mar. 29 at 7:00 pm—Plymouth at Guelph  
Games 5-7, if necessary:  
Game 5 - Sat. Mar. 31 at 7:05 pm—Guelph at Plymouth  
Game 6 - Sun. Apr. 1 at 6:30 pm—Plymouth at Guelph  
Game 7 - Tues. Apr. 3 at 7:05 pm—Guelph at Plymouth

# CLASSIFIED

- 01. Obituaries
- 02. In Memoriam
- 03. Cards of Thanks
- 04. Monuments
- 05. Personals/Announcements
- 06. Legal Notices
- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 30. Help Wanted

- 31. Help Wanted Sales
- 32. Help Wanted Drivers
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
- 35. Situations Wanted
- 40. Business Opportunity
- 42. Health and Fitness
- 43. Money to Loan
- 44. Music/Art Lessons
- 45. Elderly Health Care
- 46. Private Schools/Instruction
- 47. Riding/Horses/Stables

- 50. Pets & Supplies
- 54. Rummage Sales
- 55. Estate Sales
- 56. Flea Markets
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Garage and Yard Sales
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business and Office Equipment

- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Landscape / Nurseries
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Masonry / Brickwork
- 72. Machinery Tools
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Remodeling & Renovations
- 77. Recreation Vehicles

- 78. Hunting / Fishing
- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Real Estate
- 96. Houses for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent

- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Flats for Rent
- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business Property for Sale
- 104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
- 105. Manufactured Homes
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
- 108. Lake and Resort
- 109. Income Property

- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property
- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Freebies
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

### 30. Help Wanted

Asphalt Paving / Prep Foreperson.  
Responsibilities include oversight and management of a paving/prep crew. Requires communication with owner/agency representatives. Qualified candidate must have basic technical knowledge of asphalt paving, be customer service oriented, profit motivated and safety conscious. Candidate should be highly motivated, quality minded and have a positive attitude. Cadillac Asphalt L.L.C. encourages all minority and female candidates to apply.

Mail resume to:

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Rawsonville Division  
1785 Rawsonville Rd.  
Belleville, MI 48111

Tel: (734) 485-1717

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Family seeking a responsible, mature female for a permanent, live-in caregiver position. Some adult care experience preferred. Position requires assistance with bathing, daily medication administration, meal preparation and other light duties. Salary to include wage plus room & board. Interested parties please call: 734-454-0141

NOW HIRING:  
Companies desperately need employees to assemble products at home. No Selling, any hours. \$500 weekly potential. Info. 985-646-1700 Dept. MI-7180

### 34. Specialized Services

**BRATCHER ELECTRIC**  
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35728 Van Born • Wayne



The Q Hair Studio in Old Village Plymouth has chair rentals for stylists, manicurists and pedicurists wishing to operate as independent contractors. Call Kim or Tammy at: 734-927-6690

### 34. Specialized Services

Need help looking for someone in your family tree? Want to know where great-grandpa was born? Local genealogy services available at very reasonable rates. Call 734-260-1069 for more info.

### 40. Business Opportunity

**SELL AVON**  
Unlimited Earnings  
Be Your Own Boss  
Work From Home  
Heather 734-765-4496

Call 734-467-1900 to place your classified ad.

### 59. Auctions

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Tues., March 28, 2007  
9:00AM  
B&B Towing  
934 W. Ann Arbor Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170

96 Chev. Monte Carlo  
2G1WW12M5T9244129

02 Ford EconoVan  
1FTNE24202HA10739  
98 Chev. 2500 Van  
1GCFG25W2W1016427  
98 Chev. 2500 Van  
1GCFG25W2W1041974

**AUTO AUCTION**  
Howard's Towing & Collision  
35830 Van Born Rd.  
Wayne, MI 48184  
734-326-1114

March 27, 2007  
1:00PM

1993 Mercury  
1MEPM6246PH652475  
1988 Ford  
1FTEF14Y7JLA59136  
1993 Mazda  
JM1BG2243P0588776  
1986 Chevrolet  
1GCD14H2GF318871  
1994 Volkswagen  
3VWRA81H5RM04462

### 121. Autos Wanted

## JUNK CARS WANTED

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OVER 1,000 CARS

MON.-FRI 8:30-5:30 SAT 8:30-4:00

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"CARS FROM THE 60'S TO NOW"  
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**734-397-2200**  
248-474-4425

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DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. McCLENDON, PASTOR

Sunday { Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)  
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)  
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

\*\*Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under\*\*  
29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School**  
5885 N. Venoy • Westland MI 48185  
Phone: 734-425-0260  
Sunday School 9:30am

Sunday Service 8am & 11am • Monday Evenings 7pm  
Pastor Kurt Lambert & Pastor Paul Pallatz  
Preschool 3 through 8th grade-Fully Accredited

### Join Us For Worship

Dana L. Darby, Pastor  
"Embrace Each Other As We Serve God"  
New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church  
821 Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI 48141  
Tel: 313-565-3006

**Sunday School**  
9:00 a.m.

**Morning Worship**  
10:45 a.m.



1993 Dodge  
1B7FL26X5PS162609  
1991 Chevrolet  
2G1WL54T0M9192656  
1992 Acura  
JH4KA7660NC029870

All Vehicles Sold "As Is"  
Cash Only

On March 29, 2007, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 237 Industrial Dr., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

2003 JB Enterprise Trl  
457CA0G9031015232  
44-904-06

1994 Chevrolet ST  
1GNDT13W2R0124239  
07-797

1990 Toyota 4D  
1NXAE94A6LZ136686  
07-1392

1995 Ford 4D  
3FALP6535SM125161  
07-1620

1992 Chevrolet TK  
2GCEK19K8N117203  
07-1667

1987 Honda 4D  
1HGCA5536HA216341  
07-3297

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and Storage, 42350 Van Born Rd., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1986 Oldsmobile 4D  
1G3CW69B8G4345265  
07-1270

2002 Dodge 4D  
1B3EL46XXN340868  
07-1393

1999 Chrysler 4D  
2C3HD46R6XH659585  
07-1597

1998 Ford 2D  
3FAKP1135WR212622  
07-1784

All vehicles are sold in "as

is" condition. Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

61. Misc. Items

**NEW Queen Size Plush Orthopedic Pillow Top Mattress and Box Set.**  
Brand New in plastic with full manufacturer warranty. Can deliver.  
ONLY \$100.00  
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**KING Size Orthopedic Mattress and Split Box Set.**  
Brand "NEW" in plastic with full factory warranty. Delivery Available. Sacrifice \$175.00  
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Brand NEW in original wrapper. Full manufacturer warranty. Delivery Available. Sacrifice \$250  
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**SOFA**  
Micro-Fiber/Beige Life-Time warranty on 100% hardwood frame plus fabric warranty. NEW in crate. Delivery Available. Sacrifice for ONLY \$275.00 Matching Loveseat available.  
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w/Queen Plush Orthopedic Pillowtop mattress set Brand "NEW" in unopened boxes Full manufacturer warranty. Delivery available \$795  
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**\$125 QUEEN Mattress Set**  
NEW Mattress & Box! Full \$100 King \$200  
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**\$150 QUEEN PILLOW-TOP**  
Mattress Set  
NEW in Plastic  
Can Deliver  
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Can deliver  
\$1975  
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**7PC CHERRY BEDROOM**  
Bed, Dresser, Mirror, Chest, NS  
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All New CHERRY SLEIGH  
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Mattress Set, \$295  
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MOST VARIETIES  
PONDS-LAKES

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269-628-2056 Days  
269-624-6215 Evenings

87. Rooms For Rent

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Call 734-721-1220  
Tel-96 Inn  
313-535-4100  
Fairlane in Novi  
248-347-9999  
Days Inn/Sunrise Motel  
734-427-1300

**ROOM FOR RENT**  
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88. Duplexes For Rent

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Full Time Mgt. staff  
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89. Apartments For Rent

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or 313-247-2075

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\*On-site staff  
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Saturday 10am-3pm  
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96. Houses For Rent

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**INKSTER**  
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\$695

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3BR, air, appliances  
Opt. 2 buy  
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**BELLEVILLE**  
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\$900

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**WESTLAND**  
3BR Ranch, garage,  
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applianceoutletstores.com

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Ypsilanti, MI  
(734) 483-0901

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Goulet Construction

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#2101098622  
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- Remodeling -  
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(734) 968-4009  
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• Mental Health Treatment  
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• Domestic Violence

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• Antiques Cedar Chests  
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• Dining Room Sets  
• End Tables  
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• Sofa Tables  
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734-453-2133

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